

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested prior to examination on the merits of this application.

Claims 1-3 and 5-40 are pending in this application. All of the pending claims stand rejected. By this preliminary amendment, all of the pending claims have been cancelled without prejudice of disclaimer. New claims 41-51 have been added. Support for the new claims may be found throughout the specification as originally filed. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Applicant believes that the application with the new claims are patentably distinguishable over the prior art of record and such action is respectfully requested.

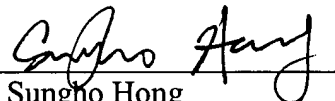
AUTHORIZATION

No petitions or additional fees are believed due for this amendment and/or any accompanying submissions. However, to the extent that any additional fees and/or petition is required, including a petition for extension of time, Applicant hereby petitions the Commissioner to grant such petition, and hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees, including any fees which may be required for such petition, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500 (Order No. 1232-4735). A DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS SHEET IS ENCLOSED.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: August 20, 2004

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